REASONS

Humbly Offered to the Consideration of the

Honourable Members of the *House of Commons*,

AGAINST

Making any Ports in the South Channel *in* England, *Free, for the* IMPORTATION *of* WOOLL *and* YARN *from* Ireland.

BY an Act of Parliament made in the First Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, the Importation of Wooll into *England*, or Exporting it from *Ireland*, are limited to these Ports;

From IRELAND; at		In ENGLAND; at	Cap. 32.
Dublin,		*Liverpool*,	
Waterford,		*Chester*,	
Youghall,		*Briſtol*,	
Kingſale,		*Minehead*,	
Drogheda,		*Barnſtaple*,	
Corke.		*Biddeford*,	
		Exeter.	

AND by another Act of Parliament of the Seventh and Eighth of King *William*, it is limited to these Ports; Cap. 28.

In IRELAND,		In ENGLAND,
Dublin,		*Whitehaven*,
Waterford,		*Liverpool*,
Youghall,		*Cheſter*,
Kingſale,		*Briſtol*,
Corke, and		*Bridgewater*,
Drogheda.		*Minehead*,
		Barnſtaple, and
		Biddeford,

FROM

FROM whence it is to be obſerved, That altho' by the Firſt Act the Port of *Exeter* in the South Channel was allowed to be a Staple Port, yet after having enjoyed that Privilege for ſeven Years, the Parliament thought fit to exclude it by the Second Act, becauſe the ſaid Port lies oppoſite to the Coaſt of *France*, and did thereby give Smugglers the greater Opportunity of carrying Wooll thither, under divers Pretences. It is farther to be obſerved, that *Bridgewater* is excluded out of the Firſt Act, but included in the Second: Whereby it is plain, that the Parliament had chiefly in view the keeping that Commodity out of the South Channel, and confining it to the more Northern Parts, as lying farther from *France*.

BY another Act of Parliament of the Tenth and Eleventh of King *William*, theſe Ports only are limited; Cap. 10.

For IRELAND,		For ENGLAND,
Dublin,		*Biddeford*
Waterford,		*Barnſtaple*,
Youghall,		*Minehead*,
Kingſale,		*Bridgewater*,
Corke, and		*Briſtol*,
Drogheda.		*Millford*,
		Cheſter, and
		Liverpool.

BY which Act every Port in the South Channel continues ſtill excluded and the Port of *Millford* in *Briſtol* Channel was brought in. By this laſt Act, the Merchants are obliged to take out Licences, and give large Security for importing *Iriſh* Wooll and Yarn: Notwithſtanding which Caution, the Parliament did not think it ſafe to allow the carrying thoſe Commodities into any of the Ports in the South Channel.

BY an Act of the Fourth of Queen *Anne*, Cap. 7. the Importation of Wooll and Yarn continues to be limited to the ſame Ports, as by the laſt mentioned, except *Roſs* added for Export in *Ireland*. It is farther to be remarked, That ſeveral Attempts have been ſince offered, to make ſome Ports in the South Channel free for the Importation of Wooll and Yarn from *Ireland*, which the Parliament (in their Wiſdom) found Cauſe not to admit:

BECAUSE that all poſſible Care hitherto taken, has not been effectual to prevent thoſe pernicious Practices of Running Wooll and Yarn, notwithſtanding the Export from *Ireland*, and Import in *England* are at preſent limited to Ports which lie fartheſt from the Coaſt of *France*; and as they have now Wooll and Yarn in greater Quantities, how much more eaſily may the Running of it be carried on, if the Ships are permitted to go daily in Sight of the Coaſt of *France*, by Maſters that are willing to break through all Laws and Oaths? to land their Wooll or Yarn, deſtroy their Ships, receive their Inſurance, and diſcharge their Bonds given the Government for the legal Importation thereof. And beſides many other ways which may be uſed by Smugglers, they may, with great Eaſe, take out a Licence,

and

and load on board their Ships in *Ireland*, a certain Part of their Loadings of Wooll and Yarn, for which will be granted as Cuſtomary, a Cocquet from the Cuſtom-Houſe: And afterwards thoſe Ships proceeding to ſome other Place in the Rivers or Creeks on the Coaſt of *Ireland*; and ſtopping there on pretence of contrary Winds; by Accomplices before prepared, and the Wooll and Yarn being ready, clandeſtinely ſhip and conceal, under the Goods and Marks ſhipt by Cocquet, aforeſaid, ſo much more Wooll and Yarn as to compleat their Loading. So that if by chance an Officer, or other Perſon getting Intelligence, and going on board to ſeize the Wooll or Yarn laſt ſhipt, immediately the Maſter or Smuggler produces the Cocquet for the Goods firſt legally ſhipt, which are found to be under the ſame Marks and Numbers firſt ſhipt, and lying on the upper Part of the Ship or Hatch-way, and then being bound to *London*, or any other Port in or leading from the South Channel, they may, with little Delay, with their Ships touch at ſome Port in *France*, and there diſcharge their Wooll and Yarn laſt taken on board; and afterwards proceed to the Port in the South Channel, where the Cocquet Goods are bound to, for the End of their Voyage: They may by Screws, or other Force, pack a greater Quantity into the ſame Space as Wooll is commonly packed in, and take their Cocquets and give their Bonds for the ſeeming Quantity; the Overplus they may deliver in *France*, and with the Reſidue diſcharge their Bonds.

IT is ſaid that Wooll or Yarn may be carried from *Ireland* to *Norwich*, or any Port in the South Channel, on giving proper Securities: If the above Reaſons are not ſufficient to demonſtrate the Contrary, let Gentlemen conſider, That if the *Iriſh* can get a better Price from *France* than from *England*, it is their Intereſt to ſell it to *France*; in which Caſe the Officers of the Cuſtoms in *Ireland* will wink at the Smugglers, as being their Countrymen and Friends. But the Caſe is quite otherwiſe when they bring it into *England*, where there will be no Connivance of Officers, nor any Friends to ſo deſtructive a Trade.

ON the whole, if any Port in the South Channel be made free, the Smuggling or Running of Wooll and Yarn will be rendered ſo much the more eaſy to be carried on, that all the Penal Laws that can be contrived, nor all the Fleet of *England* to watch the Smugglers, will be able toprevent it.

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